SENATE RESOLUTION

CONVENING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP MORE COLLABORATIVE INFORMATION AND DECISION-MAKING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AS IT RELATES TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.

WHEREAS, as expressed in chapter 206E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Legislature created the Hawaii Community Development Authority and its community development districts to develop "communities which serve the highest needs and aspirations of Hawaii's people"; and

WHEREAS, the community residents are important stakeholders who have an interest in development in their community development districts; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature received complaints that the Hawaii Community Development Authority has repeatedly disregarded and failed to act on community concerns expressed at the Hawaii Community Development Authority community meetings, public hearings, and board meetings; and

WHEREAS, Act 61, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, was enacted to address community concerns, but the Hawaii Community Development Authority, instead of providing venues for developers to meet with community stakeholders informally, has implemented contested case procedures that further discourage expression of legitimate community concerns; and

WHEREAS, in the Regular Session of 2015, the Legislature introduced S.B. No. 906 to create a less formal and less adversarial dialogue that, by encouraging the Hawaii Community Development Authority, developers, and the community to work together, implements the community engagement policy set forth in section 206E-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State and community development districts to implement clear, fair, open,

and collaborative procedures that achieve the goals of chapter 206E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, that a working group be convened to develop more collaborative information and decision-making policies and procedures for community engagement as it relates to community development districts; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing and the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Water and Land are requested to serve as Co-Chairpersons of the working group; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to include:

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(1) Community stakeholders, including but not limited to landowners, developers, small business owners, and residents, as selected by the Co-Chairpersons;

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(2) Up to four Hawaii Community Development Authority members; and

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(3) Others as deemed appropriate by the Co-Chairpersons; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved on June 30, 2016; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

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